

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1138

By Casada

A RESOLUTION to honor Les Steckel for his dedicated service to the youth of the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm as public servants to the youth of this State; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable citizen is Les Steckel, a Golden Gloves boxing champion at the University of Kansas who graduated from that institution in 1968; and

WHEREAS, following in Tennessee's great volunteer spirit, Mr. Steckel enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and, after completing Officer Candidate School in 1969, served in Vietnam as an infantry officer. In 1972, Mr. Steckel joined the Marine Corps Reserve and served in various staff positions throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, after serving our country with dignity and honor for thirty years, Mr. Steckel retired in 1999 as a Colonel. Among numerous other military awards, he received the Navy Commendation Medal; and

WHEREAS, after spending five years as a college coach at the University of Colorado and the United States Naval Academy, Mr. Steckel began his National Football League (NFL) career with the San Francisco 49ers in 1978; and

WHEREAS, a native of Whitehall, Pennsylvania, he has twenty-three years of coaching experience in the NFL, including tenures as head coach of the Minnesota Vikings and offensive coordinator for the Tennessee Titans; and

WHEREAS, as the offensive coordinator for the Tennessee Titans, Mr. Steckel helped guide the team to the 2000 Super Bowl in their inaugural season. The Titans came up "One Yard Short" of tying the St. Louis Rams and forcing overtime in the Super Bowl; and

WHEREAS, in August 2006, Mr. Steckel's autobiography, *One Yard Short: Turning Your Defeats Into Victories*, was published. The title is derived from the final play of the 2000 Super Bowl, a play that has been called the most exciting in the history of the Super Bowl; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2005, Mr. Steckel became the seventh president/chief executive officer of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA); and

WHEREAS, his involvement with FCA dates back to 1972, when, as a college football coach, he attended his first FCA conference. In the thirty-plus years since, Les Steckel has served as a huddle leader, platform speaker, camp dean, and football clinician at FCA camps across the nation; and

WHEREAS, under Les Steckel's leadership, FCA staff has nearly doubled from 727 to 1432, while the number of huddles — small group gatherings of coaches, athletes, or teams to pray and study God's Word — has more than tripled, from 5,500 to 17,376. FCA's camps ministry experienced a five-fold increase, from 139 camps to 740 camps around the world in 2016, and camp attendance quadrupled, from 27,954 to 106,268, while internationally, FCA is now serving in sixty countries with 133 leaders; and

WHEREAS, as a twenty-year resident of Tennessee, Mr. Steckel has helped lead thousands of the State's youth through the FCA huddles and camps at our State's schools; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Steckel and his wife, Chris, have regularly spoken at FCA marriage enrichment weekends, and both he and Chris served on the FCA National Board of Trustees; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor Les Steckel for his dedicated military service and his service to the youth of our State and our country, commend his ongoing commitment to our youth, and thank him for a difficult job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.